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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 89-NUMBER 41 — APPOMATTOX, (VA.)-TIMES-VIRGINIAN-OCTOBER 9, 1980 — ONE SECTION-18 PAGES — SINGLE COPY PRICE - 20¢

Town set for 8th big celebration

All systems are go for the eighth annual Historic Appomattox County Railroad Festival, which gets underway this Saturday at 10 a.m.

The festival, which was initiated in 1972, is regarded as the single biggest event of the year for Appomattox, and has in past years attracted an average of between 5,000 and 6,000 people on the festival's two days.

This year's version of the Railroad Festival will begin at 10 a.m. with the festival parade, featuring festival grand marshall Charles Middleton of WSET-TV in Lynchburg, and television personality Fred Freelantz, who will serve as head conductor.

The parade, in which approximately 80 units will participate, will originate at Appomattox Primary School and proceed through Appomattox into the Depot, and then double back to the Primary School.

At 11:30 a.m. special guests of the festival will be introduced at the Depot, and there will be ceremonies for unveiling of the new county flag, as well as parade award presentations.

The Joe Sweeney Classic, a 10-kilometer footrace open to all ages, will get underway at 2:30 Saturday. The race will begin and end at Appomattox County High School on Route 727.

A crosscut saw contest will be conducted from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, as well. The event, sponsored by the Appomattox County Young Farmers of America, will take place in the parking lot adjacent to Marshall's Department Store on Main Street, Appomattox.

The first day of the festival will be capped off Saturday night with a fireworks display starting at 9 p.m. at the high school.

Sunday's special events will include a continuation of the crosscut saw contest from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., as well as a historic dress contest from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the depot on Main Street, and a super-hero contest from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the vacant lot across from Memorial Methodist Church on Court Street.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, numerous exhibits and activities will be conducted in the festival.

Homemade arts and crafts will be exhibited at the Depot during these hours and a variety of home-cooked foods will be available in the area near Marshall's Department Store.

An exhibit of railroad artifacts and a "bake-off" contest will be held in the Burke Insurance Building on Main Street, as well. Throughout the festival clowns, familiar television cartoon characters and other entertainers will be on hand to entertain children. There will also be a miniature "train" on which children and their parents can take rides during the day.

From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, there will be music in the depot area, including country-western, bluegrass, gospel, patriotic and "railroad" music.

There will also be a "War Between the States" exhibit at the lobby of the Farmers National Bank on Main Street, sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Additional details on specific events of the Railroad Festival are inside this week's issue of the **Times-Virginian.**

Williams walks off with contest

Plicky William edged Carolyn Thompson on a tie-breaker this week to win the weekly football contest.

Williams and Thompson both missed three of the 23 games offered in the contest, with Williams guessing wrong on the LSU-Florida game (which LSU won), as well as the Penn State-Missouri game (Penn State won) and the Buckingham-Nelson County game, which Nelson County won.

Thompson missed accurately predicting the outcome of the U. Va.-West Virginia game, which West Virginia won, as well as the outcomes of the Dartmouth-Holy Cross game (Holy Cross won) and the LSU-Florida game.

On the tie-breakers, Williams predicted that Appomattox would defeat Altavista 20-6 (the actual score was 25-7), and that Clemson would defeat VPI 17-13 (the score was 13-10), for a total point spread of 11 points in the two tie-breakers.

Thompson's point spread was 23 points, as she predicted that Appomattox would win 17-8 and Clemson would win 20-17.

Eleven contestants came close in last week's competition, missing only four of the 23 games offered. They were David Bohannon, James C. Doss, Gloria Ferguson, Roger Gosney, Jeff Martin, Johnny Cole, Darnell Mayberry, all of Appomattox; Tim Austin of Evergreen; and Marshall Cheatham and Linda Cheatham, of Spout Spring.

The football contest continues this week, with 23 more games for the area's amateur prophets to test their skills on. Details and rules of the game can be found on the football contest page inside the **Times-Virginian.**

Lions slate meeting

James E. Ewing, Jr., of Emporia, Virginia, District Governor of 24B will make his official visit to the Appomattox Lions Club on Thursday night, Oct. 9.

The meeting will be held at the John Mosby Inn Restaurant, beginning at 6:45 p.m. This is an important meeting and all members are urged to be present.

SUPERINTENDENT LUIS E. GARCIA-CURBELO and Park Technician Amy Hay look over plans for the beautification of the site of the remains of the tree where Gen. Robert E. Lee said farewell to his troops in 1865. Only a stump remains of the stately tulip poplar where Lee stopped briefly to talk to some of his soldiers after the surrender ceremony at Appomattox. A recent bequest gave the National Park Service $57,000 to beautify and add facilities at the site. The sapling that grew from a seed of the famous tree stands behind the two. As a result of the bequest, interpretive signs will be added for the sightless, trails widened and a wayside exhibit installed.

Historical Park gets $57,000

As the result of a surprise bequest of $57,000 from a park admirer, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park in Virginia will be able to interpret the historic spot where General Robert E. Lee bade farewell to his troops.

The unexpected helping hand to historic preservation for the park comes from a settlement of the estate of the late Gary Stuart Cheatham of Bluefield, West Virginia. When Mr. Cheatham died in 1976, he bequeathed the remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed of every kind and description, to the Lee Tree Wayside at Appomattox Historical Park, Appomattox, Virginia."

Cheatham was a clothing salesman who traveled extensively in West Virginia and Virginia. His father came from Appomattox County and the Cheatham family held reunions at a farm near the park. He was a great admirer of General Robert E. Lee," a relative said of Gary Cheatham.

Appomattox SuperIntendent Luis Garcia-Curbelo outlined preliminary plans for the use of the funds from the will: a sign in Braille for the sightless; a ramp and trail-widening project designed to aid disabled visitors; benches for the elderly; clearing of undergrowth; and construction of a new wayside exhibit possibly powered by solar panels.

Cheatham's bequest will help to commemorate the spot under a tulip poplar tree where General Lee spoke a few informal words of farewell to his troops on April 9, 1865, just after he had signed the document surrending the Army of Northern Virginia to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Astride his famed horse **Traveler,** the defeated Confederate commander said simply: "Men, we have fought the war together and I have done the best I could for you. You will all be paroled and go to your homes until exchanged."

In 1893, the War Department erected an interpretive marker next to the tulip poplar tree. Between 1930 and 1940 this tree was the victim of several lightning strikes, and about 1960 what remained of the trunk was blown down in a windstorm. However, seeds from the tree were gathered by Professor Carl Holcomb of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and later planted close to the parent tree. These seeds, planted on April 9, 1966, have grown into a beautiful sapling, now 20 feet tall.

Since it took over administration of the historical park in 1940, the Park Service has added other features at the Lee's headquarters wayside. A walking trail leads from the poplar tree into woods where visitors may sit and rest. A nearby natural area has been designated an environmental study area and is used for nature study by local school groups, and Boy and Girl Scouts.

"We gratefully accept this donation to the park," said Russell E. Dickenson, Director of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. "It will go into a special fund and will be used only for the purposes Mr. Cheatham specified."

CVCA Sponsored

Programs available to elderly

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a three-part series dealing with the Central Virginia Commission on Aging and related programs for the elderly. By BILL SHERROD

In a nutshell, three words sum up the purpose of the Central Virginia Commission on Aging: programs and services.

In the six years since the commission was founded, the number and variety of programs and services offered to elderly persons within the jurisdiction of the Central Virginia Planning District have steadily increased.

For definitive purposes, the programs and services offered by CVCA are broken down into 18 major categories. Each category has satellite programs and services, all aimed at providing help for elderly persons who sometimes have difficulty helping themselves.

For example, in the July issue of **Tattler,** an informal newsletter (itself a service) provided for persons involved in CVCA programs, several programs and services provided in Appomattox were examined.

According to Gail Conner, editor of the **Tattler,** Appomattox has a very active "Homemaker Program." The homemaker program provides for employees of the CVCA who visit homes of elderly persons who, because illness or physical condition are not able to perform many of the duties normally associated with maintaining a home.

A related service is the winterization program, in which elderly persons' homes are repaired or improved to keep out the cold and/or weather.

Hand in hand with the winterization program is the emergency repair program. Elderly persons with problems ranging from termite infestation to plumbing failure are aided through this service.

A total of 246 meals were served in the Appomattox dining center during the 14 days it was open during July, according to the **Tattler.** In addition, 83 meals were delivered to homes, and 288 were prepared for take-home on the days the center was not open.

The "Special Transportation Dial-a-Ride program offers transportation to and from the dining center, as well as other special programs developed for senior citizens participating in the various CVCA programs.

Another service big in Appomattox during July was the Senior Discount Card Program. In this program, senior citizens have a photo-identity card made which serves as proof of their eligibility for senior citizens' discounts. More than 200 merchants in the area participate in the senior discount program, according to the **Tattler.**

The **Tattler** reported on only a sampling of the programs and services offered to senior citizens through the CVCA. Other services are as simple as a friendly telephone call each day to the lonely in the telephone reassurance program, or as involved as paralegal aid in the Legal Aid Program.

Naturally, with so many services and programs available to senior citizens in the CVCA's jurisdiction, there is often some confusion as to how an elderly person who needs help can get that assistance.

To help such people, the **Senior Sum-Up,** a quarterly publications like the **Tattler,** an integral part of the CVCA Outreach Prógram which helps diffuse information published in its fall issue the new location of the information and referral services office in Lynchburg.

That office, which helps coordinate and other agencies programs and services, is now located at 302 Oakley Avenue in Lynchburg. The phone number for that office is 845-8016.

Next week in the third and final story of this series future challenges of the CVCA and related programs will be examined.

Local Baptist churches sponsor refugee family

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

There is a new family in Appomattox County; they are living and working on the chicken farm of Lester Goin in the Hixburg area of the county. The family came to Appomattox County from Ho Chi Minh, South Vietnam. They are: Lam To Ha, Ha Ngoc Yen, Lam Khanh Minh, Lam Khanh Long, Ha Dong Quyen.

The Appomattox Baptist Association, Group III for Refugees is responsible for the family having the opportunity to begin a new life.

The family quite well to do in Vietnam, had a thriving plastics business when the Communists took over. Not only did the Communists seize the business, they also took the family home, the cars-everything.

After the Communist take-over, the family was alloted $20.00 a month for living expenses; it was necessary to give this back to the Communists in payment for food for the family.

When the family asked permission to leave Vietnam, it was granted, with a provision. If the head of the family, Lam To Ha, would give the Communist government 80 ounces of gold for each family member who was planning to leave Vietnam, then they would be allowed to leave. Lam To Ha paid the required amount of gold, but the family was not permitted to leave.

Following the disappointment they felt at not being granted the permission they had so eagerly sought, the family tried to escape. The boat on which they were attempting to escape was captured by a pirate boat and they were robbed. Another disappointment.....another failure. They didn't give up, however, and this time they were successful in their try for freedom. Even though they had nothing but the clothing they wore, they were successful in their next attempt to attain freedom. A United Nations plane rescued them and took them to the Philippines.

The lady of the house, Ha Ngoc Yen, is an accomplished seamstress; she even fashions clothing without the aid of a pattern. Her brother, Ha Dong Quyen, is a tailor.

The Appomattox Baptist Association Group III for Refugees includes four churches. They are: Freedom Baptist Church with the Rev. Crabtree and Don Hudson representing that church; Liberty Baptist Church is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Vaughan and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Marshall. From Hebron Baptist Church the Rev. R. J. Patton serves as representatives. Calvary Baptist Church is represented by the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Casper. Rev. Casper also serves as Chairman of the Refugee Committee. Also representating Calvary Baptist Church are: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Toler, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Armstead and Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Key.

APPOMATTOX COUNTY'S newest family (Photo by Joe Vaughan).

$10,480 raised in first week

Citizens and businesses in Appomattox donated a total of $10,480.31 to the rescue squad's annual fund-raising drive the first week on the month-long campaign, according to rescue squad spokesman, Ray Noble.

The goal for this year's fund-raising drive is $15,700, Noble adds.

He says that many more contributions are expected through the mail and by personal delivery during the month of October. The drive will end Oct. 31, according to Noble.

Funds from the drive are used to support the all-volunteer Appomattox County Rescue Squad, which offers complete emergency services to citizens in and around Appomattox County.

"We appreciate all the support and all the donations received thus far during the campaign," Noble said early this week.

"Only with the help of the citizens of Appomattox can we continue to provide the quality services we strive to offer Appomattox.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Confederate Boulevard is a busy traffic artery, bisecting Appomattox like many others. I travel it at least twice a day. I was driving East and met a long vehicle loaded with junked automobiles. They had been stripped and flattened and doubtless were on route to a scrap metal collector. Before I could think about that, right behind it was another long vehicle. This one was loaded with brand new automobiles! Headed for a new car showroom and duty as someone's pride and joy. So it goes. Like a long coal train passing through Appomattox headed East and then a long string of empties headed West. Life goes on and YOU are there.

* * *

Mixed in with a string of tall pines in my back lot are two persimmon trees. And the fruit is ripe. I am not much on persimmons and cannot reach the fruit anyway. Around town the fruit is in bloom, as are wild daisies.

* * *

Football or baseball, which is in command this week? In baseball there are division play-offs and then the World Series. As a longtime Yankee fan, I note that we are loaded with fathand pitchers, series experience, and Reggie Jackson. But eggs do not always hatch and in inter-league meetings, the Nationals often win. As for football, ACHS looks good. The Raiders are a young team, gaining poise with every game. Brookville had a close one with Liberty, 14 to 13, and Nelson County finally won. At the college level, Virginia's Big Five managed five losses. Saturday is Band Day at Univ. of Richmond, and one of the bands to perform is the Brookville H. S. Band. Elsewhere Saturday, Randolph-Macon defeated Washington & Lee and Slippery Rock lost to Dayton.

* * *

Election Day is just over three weeks away. I hear very little local discussion, but I note that in Virginia we will be asked to vote on four state constitutional amendments.

* * *

On my calendar only one holiday is listed for October and that will be next Monday, Columbus Day. Not generally observed now, but sure am glad Chris was a sailor and headed West.

* * *

Railroad Festival is around the corner and lots of local people have been seeing to it that Appomattox is ready. Virginia Flower Show Judges meet in Richmond Oct. 21. Mrs. C. T. Moses Jr., of Appomattox is active in this group.

* * *

Prior to the Dedication of the McLean House at Old Appomattox, I was invited to appear on the then No. One Va. radio station, WRVA in Richmond. The object was to generate interest in the event and promote attendance. My host at this appearance was George Passage, news commentator at that station 1942-1958. Later George moved to Newport News and was Editor of **The Times-Herald,** chairman of the board at Mariner's Museum and of the State War Memorial Museum and winner of countless awards for his service. Mr. Passage died in Riverside Hospital, Newport News during the week end. He was 65.

* * *

If the number on your car windshield is 10, it is time to have your car inspected.

* * *

A bit early to be purchasing Christmas gifts, but a firm in Wisconsin has mailed me a 96-page catalog featuring cheese gifts.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.